AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): A method for screening for an agent which promotes insulin production and/or an agent that increases insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide and expressing the polypeptide, in which the polypeptide is selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

and

(c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having ~~an~~ a 95% or greater ~~homology~~ identity with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof, into contact with a substance to be tested,

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, ~~and~~

selecting the substance which activates the polypeptide so as to identify the agent, and confirming that the selected substance increases insulin production and/or insulin content.

8-14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).

16-17. (canceled).

18. (new): The method according to claim 7, wherein the substance in which the increased activity is 1.5 times or more is selected in the selecting step.

19. (new): The method according to claim 7, wherein a change of an insulin promoter activity is analyzed in the analyzing step.

20. (new): The method according to claim 19, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).

21. (new): The method according to claim 18, wherein a change of an insulin promoter activity is analyzed in the analyzing step.

22. (new): The method according to claim 21, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).